



Amendments to the Claims:

1. (Previously Presented) A contacts block mechanism of an IC contact card reader having a contacts block that contacts an input/output terminal on a card surface of an IC contact card for signal transmissions, comprising:

contacts placed in said contacts block for making contact with said input/output terminal, said contacts block being replaceable as a modular unit;

contacts attach/detach means including a switch and a moving member, said contacts attach/detach means for moving said contacts block into contact with or away from said input/output terminal; and

an IC card control circuit board mounted to said contacts block, to which one end of said contacts is electrically connected for signal transmissions with said IC card, said IC card control circuit board being operable to communicate with said IC card through said contacts of said contacts block;

wherein said switch and said moving member move in parallel to a running direction of said IC card.

2-4. (Cancelled)

5. (Previously Presented) A contacts block mechanism of an IC contact card reader having a contacts block that contacts an input/output terminal on a card surface of an IC contact card for signal transmissions, comprising:

contacts placed in said contacts block for making contact with said input/output terminal, said contacts block being replaceable as a modular unit;

contacts attach/detach means for moving said contacts block into contact with or away from said input/output terminal; and

an IC card control circuit board mounted to said contacts block, to which one end of said contacts is electrically connected for signal transmissions with said IC card, said IC card control circuit board being operable to communicate with said IC card through said contacts of said contacts block;

a frame, to which said members of said contacts block mechanism are fixed, and which, in turn, is attached to a predetermined position in said IC contact card reader.

6-7. (Cancelled)

8. (Previously Presented) The IC contact card reader as set forth in Claim 1 wherein the switch makes contact with or separates from the IC contact card during transporting, and said moving member is linked with the movement of the switch for bringing the contacts block into contact with the input/output terminal.

9. (Previously Presented) An IC contact card reader comprising:
a contacts block module operable to contact an I/O terminal disposed on an IC contact card, the contacts block module being replaceable as a modular unit and including:

contacts disposed in the contacts block module for contacting the I/O terminal of the IC contact card; and

a control circuit board mounted to the contacts block module for movement with the contacts block module, the contacts being electrically connected to the control circuit board, the control circuit board being operable to communicate with the IC contact card through the contacts and serving as a signal transmitter from the IC contact card to a processor housed in a main assembly of the IC contact card reader; and

a contacts block module mover operable to bring the contacts into contact with the I/O terminal of the IC contact card and to move the contacts block module away from the I/O terminal.

10. (Previously Presented) The IC contact card reader as set forth in Claim 9 wherein the contacts block module mover includes:

a swing arm that turns the contacts block module towards or away from the I/O terminal of the IC contact card; and

an actuator for driving the swing arm.

11. (New) The contacts block mechanism according to claim 1, wherein said IC card control circuit board contains a control integrated circuit chip that controls communication between said IC card and a host processor.